

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 20 to page 2, line 6, as follows:

It is well understood that the autoimmune attack on beta cells proceeds by way of the MHC class II pathway, in which antigen presenting cells (APCs) process relevant beta cell protein antigens and present their peptide epitopes to CD4+ T lymphocytes, thereby inducing cytokines which assist in the destruction of the beta cells. One approach which has been proposed in the study of Type 1 diabetes and other autoimmune disease has been to isolate (elute) the effective epitopes from the complex of peptide and HLA class II molecule and to explore the potential of these peptides for diagnosis and therapy. US patent 5,827,516 is directed to this type of approach for a large number of diseases and US patent 6,562,943 applies this methodology to Type 1 diabetes. Reference may be made to these prior patents to the extent that this may be helpful for a full understanding of the present invention. The literature reference corresponding to US ~~5,827,516~~ 6,562,943 is Peakman et al, 1999, Naturally processed and presented epitopes of the islet cell autoantigen IA-2 eluted from HLA-DR4, J. Clin Invest 104:1449-1457.

US ~~5,827,516~~ 6,562,943 mentions three antigens suspected of being involved in Type 1 diabetes, including insulin, pro-insulin, and pre-pro-insulin, but the peptide epitopes disclosed in this patent and eluted from the complex are restricted to those from the postulated IA-2 antigen.